

QUARTERLY REPORT TO THE JOINT LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

ON

MENTAL HEALTH, DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES

SESSION LAW 2001-437

October 1, 2007 to December 31, 2007

This quarterly report is submitted to the Legislative Oversight Committee in Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services (LOC), pursuant to the requirements of Session Law 2001-437. This report is for the months of October 1, 2007 to December 31, 2007 and provides information on major developments as the division implements reform.

Section I: Major developments for this quarter include:

1. The Division Director communicated via a memorandum to all LME Directors that Mercer Government Human Services Consulting (Mercer) would conduct one-day on-site reviews of each LME beginning in January, 2008. The memorandum outlines the scope of the review, a schedule, agenda and information concerning logistics in order to complete the visits.
2. Dr. Art Robarge was appointed as interim director of Broughton Hospital. Dr. Robarge previously served as Broughton director in 1986-1989 and has more than 30 years of experience as an executive in public mental health, developmental disabilities and substance abuse system.
3. The North Carolina Special Care Center has officially changed its name to the Longleaf Neuro-Medical Treatment Center. Longleaf will continue to deliver specialized services to patients from the state psychiatric hospitals that have complex mental and physical health issues.
4. A combined workgroup of physicians from North Carolina emergency departments, state facilities and psychiatrists in practice developed and released guidance in addressing issues of medical clearance for behavioral emergencies presenting in emergency departments. The guidance was sent to hospital emergency departments, state facilities, LME directors and all hospital CEOs in North Carolina.
5. Secretary Benton announced that effective November 8, 2007, the suspension of new enrollment of community support services. This suspension covers new providers who had or were considering initiating the process of becoming

endorsed to provide this service, as well as any provider proposing any expansion of sites to provide this service. This suspension is apart of the action plan to address the quality of Community Support Services across North Carolina. Other activities of the action plan included additional training for providers, clinical post payment reviews on all recipients receiving an average of 12 or more hours of community support services a week, a revision to the endorsement checklist used by LMEs to determine that providers have the qualification to provide the service, and some changes to the service definition.

1. Communication Bulletins # 081 through # 086

- Communication Bulletin #081 announced the division's development and implementation of Standards for LME Qualifications for Single Stream Funding for SFY 08 and SFY 09.
- Communication Bulletin #082 announced the draft document entitled *Recommendations to the Provider Action Agenda Committee (PAAC) Related to the Standardization of Claims Processing for State-Funded Services and Implications for Implementation*.
- Communication Bulletin #083 announced the LME participation in the Hospital Pilot project required by Section 10.49 (s1-s5) of HB 1473.
- Communication Bulletin #084 announced the Division's commitment to develop a wider array of employment options for people with disabilities and not discontinue support for Community Rehabilitation Programs, commonly known as Sheltered Workshops.
- Communication Bulletin #085 announced the applications for Substance Abuse Services Cross Area Services Program (CASP) Funding.
- Communication Bulletin #086 announced the MH/DD/SAS Systems Progress Indicators Quarterly Report.

In addition to the Communication Bulletin Series, the Division released several Enhanced Services Implementation Updates to assist providers and consumers with the transition process. Two Implementation Updates were released, covering the following topics:

- Implementation Update #36 announced changes to Implementation Updates, Community Support Service, Comprehensive Clinical assessment, Training and CAP-MR/DD Endorsement.
- Implementation Update #37 provided information to prevent Medicaid Billing Errors, Community Support Modifiers, Information on Hearings and Appeals,

Clarification on the Revised Policy and Procedures for Endorsement of Providers and Guidance on Staff Qualification.

2. Systems Development

State Operated Services announced that pursuant to NCGS Article 5, 122C-182, a contract to establish a coordinated system of services for consumers will be forthcoming from the state psychiatric hospitals, developmental centers and ADACTS. The contract will specify the roles and responsibilities of facilities and LMEs regarding admissions and discharge planning. The contract has been reviewed over the past 12 months by LME directors, the LME Team, State Operated Services and facility directors.

3. Merger of Local Management Entities (LMEs)

There we no merger of Local Management Entities this quarter.

4. Services and Programs

- **Service Definitions:** There were no significant changes in service definitions this quarter.
- **Division Training:** A Town Hall meeting was held December 13, 2007 in Weldon, NC to share information and listen to concerns about system transformation. A video conference to update system transformation was also held this quarter.

5. Financing

- The Division announced that the North Carolina General Assembly provided funding in the 2007-2008 budget to expand Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) programs across North Carolina. Each LME will receive \$2,000 this year to use for CIT purposed. The funds will be allocated upon receipt by the Division of the proper forms from the CME. The funds may be used to expand or improve existing CIT programs.
- As a part of the receipt of single stream funding LME Directors were provided with an addendum to the existing Relational Agreement between the Consumer and Family Advisory Committee (CFAC) and the Governing Board. This addendum outlines the role of the CFAC in the LME age/disability service planning process relative to the use of funds

6. Public Outreach to Discuss System Reform

The Division continues to post on its website Questions and Answers regarding the New and Modified Service Definitions.

7. Rule Changes

The following rules were reviewed at the November 15, 2007 Commission for MH/DD/SAS meeting:

- Proposed Amendment of 10A NCAC 28F .0101 - Regions for Division Institutional Admissions
- 10A NCAC 27A – Uniform Co-Payment Graduated Fee Schedule

8. Developing Community Capacity

The Division of MH/DD/SAS and the Commission for MH/DD/SAS, in conjunction with the NC Developmental Disabilities Council have combined their efforts to undertake a comprehensive look at workforce development as it relates to the provision of mental health, developmental disabilities and substance abuse services.